

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Previously Presented) A method for disrupting cells comprising:  
providing a sonic bath comprising a first liquid;  
placing into said first liquid a vessel comprising cells in a second liquid at an alkaline pH;  
and  
subjecting said cells to ultrasonic energy from said sonic bath of sufficient power and duration to cause disruption of said cells in the absence of beads.
2. (Cancelled)
- 3 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the temperature of said first liquid is about 65°C to about 75°C.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the cells are mycobacterial cells.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the surface tension of said second liquid is reduced.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the temperature of said first liquid is about 65°C to about 75°C.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the cells are mycobacterial cells.
- 8 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~further comprising A method for disrupting cells by applying ultrasonic energy to a sample of cells in a first liquid,~~ wherein the surface tension of said first liquid is reduced.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said first liquid is contained in a vessel and said vessel is in a sonic bath comprising a second liquid.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein beads are present in said first liquid.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said first liquid is at an alkaline pH.
12. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the temperature of said second liquid is about 65°C to about 75°C.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the cells are mycobacterial cells.